

Elk Point REVIEW

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Tuesday, April 22, 2008

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Subdivision
Proposed for rural area

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Hits Heinsburg artifacts

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Administrative Professionals Week

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Vicki Brooker photo

Guys just want to have fun

Carson Ference has his own cheering section to urge him on as he takes part in Elk Point Elementary School's Jump Rope for Heart fundraiser. Students skipped to the lively music provided by deejay Melissa Breen as they raised money for the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

ED committee to determine mandate

By VICKI BROOKER
Review Staff

The mandate for Elk Point's new economic development committee will be determined with input from its members, according to Mayor Parrish Tung, who told town council at their April 14 meeting that the committee members would be named shortly.

Economic development coordinator Bob Bezpalko noted the mandate of the original committee was also set by its members, and "I feel they very much followed their mandate for the most part." He added that it is "imperative that the committee be formed quickly."

Operational funding for the new committee will come from \$12,000 in business licence fees, which council moved later in the meeting to transfer to the EDC's operating reserve.

Bezpalko is currently gathering statistics, working with the chamber of commerce on updated marketing material and getting involved with the Iron Horse Trail and the Alberta's Lakeland Destination Marketing Organization. He is also working with town Coun. Dick Millar on information for Alberta HUB.

Bezpalko showed council Elk Point's updated website, and noted that grant funding from Travel Alberta had been approved for part of the update cost.

Town manager Myron Goyan got new signs for the golf club, Bezpalko said, adding that he has spoken with Graphica regarding the new welcome signs. "The July 1 deadline is tough," he noted.

Elk Point's airport, "a vital part of Elk Point," is "a very clean facility," Bezpalko noted after a recent visit.

At the Rural Tourism conference in Camrose, Bezpalko learned that "finding information on your own community is vital. A lot of what we need, we already have."

Recreation coordinator to be hired

Council agreed to advertise for an individual who would coordinate recreational activities for adults and children in Elk Point. They discussed the various aspects of the job description, and came up with a list that Coun. Bernice Capjack says is "not like the recreation coordinators we used to have."

Mayor Tung said the town is "not trying to take over" the work done by various groups. "We want to help the volunteers and make it easier for them."

(Continued on Page 2)

Chamber focuses on tourism potential

By VICKI BROOKER
Review Staff

Tourism topped the agenda at the April 16 meeting of Elk Point Chamber of Commerce, with Bob Bezpalko reporting on a worthwhile visit to the Growing Rural Tourism conference in Camrose and Iron Horse Trail industry coordinator Marianne Price on hand to outline the positive effect can have on local businesses.

Bezpalko found the conference "very informative. About 150 people were there from across Alberta and there was a lot of networking."

One of the sessions dealt with marketing

tourism on the internet and optimizing websites, and since 63 per cent of tourists now look to the internet for their information, Bezpalko says it is "imperative to use as many links as possible." He also learned that a website should be refreshed and updated frequently to keep it at the top of search engine listings.

Bezpalko has been working on the town's website update and told chamber members that businesses who have purchased a business license will be listed in the town's business directory on the site, and "there will be an opportunity for them to have small websites of their own."

A session with a futurist showed the leading trend to be the retirement of baby boomers. "For every 12 people retiring, only three are entering the workforce," with the result that many retirees are "reinventing retirement" with part time employment.

Bezpalko also attended sessions on hiring and retraining employees, dealing with difficult people and dealing with difficult people without becoming one, free advertising through the use of press releases, mastering your message and setting smart goals.

A final session on "challenge to change" advised people to think inside the box and to use what they have, Bezpalko said.

"It all boils down to knowing your market," he said. "The major thing Elk Point can do is to get local people to spend more money (locally), and to partner up with the Iron Horse Trail and the Alberta's Lakeland Destination Marketing Organization. We want a piece of that pie." Bezpalko says he also plans to work with Alberta HUB, Fort George and Buckingham House and Whitney Lakes Provincial Park.

Price, who works with the Iron Horse Trail and Alberta's Lakeland, gave the chamber insight into the Iron Horse Trail's history, and its relationship with Northeast MuniCorr.

(Continued on Page 2)

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Chamber focuses on Elk Point's tourism potential

(Continued from Front Page)

MuniCorr is a part nine company consisting of 10 municipalities, and owns the rail corridor, which they originally looked at as a utility corridor and a wildlife corridor until they were approached by the Riverland Recreational Trail Society to turn it into a four-season recreational trail.

"MuniCorr owns the property and manages the business, such as selling all the off-right-of-way and siding areas. The money from these sales goes into a legacy fund for the upkeep and repair of trestles, as

well as to promote the communities along the trail and their tourism product."

Riverland is a volunteer group that coordinates trail development and works closely with MuniCorr and the municipalities, while Alberta's Lakeland partners with the IHT to promote the area at trade shows and conferences, as well as through its website and tourism publications.

"This year, we're targeting Westworld and National Geographic magazines. We're taking a historical theme of the Elk Point to Heinsburg region for Westworld," Price said.

Price listed the numerous partnerships that have brought well over \$1 million in funding and in-kind contributions to the region, for everything from developing staging areas and installing signage and amenities along the trail to paying for staff and developing circle tours. One recent project was Alberta TrailNet's map pilot project, which shows all the trails in northeast Alberta.

Price noted that the Iron Horse Trail is "viewed as a model of success" throughout the province, and its fame is spreading, with more and larger groups

coming to explore the region via the trail.

MLA Ray Danyluk, who stopped briefly at the meeting, agreed that, "this trail was the lead. It has so many great features and so much potential for tourism. The province looks at this area as the leaders (in trail development). When we started it was a new venture, and now, the potential of the trail is phenomenal."

Price said she is looking for designated access routes to services in communities along the trail, as well as for connector trails, so that signs can be put up to indicate their location to trail users.

"What can we do in our community?" Bezpalko asked. "What services should we be providing? The bottom line is, the chamber, the town, the snowmobile club and the Friends of the Forts all need to work together."

The chamber's STEP grant has been approved, but for only seven weeks rather than the 12 weeks applied for, and may result in some adjustment of the tourist booth's operating hours. No word has yet been received on the federal employment grant which funds the second position.

Forts' summer shaping up

By Vicki Brooker

Review Staff

The 2008 season at Fort George and Buckingham House is shaping up nicely, with Nathan Hudson hired as assistant program coordinator. Hudson, who headed the interpretive staff at FGBH last year, will be working with program coordinator Ross Stromberg at both this site and Fort Victoria. Other previous staff members may also be returning this summer.

Stromberg told the Friends of the Forts at their April 8 meeting that plans for the David Thompson Brigade's visit and the Great Fur Factor Challenge on Sunday, May 18 are coming together, with a number of the Brigade members planning to join in the challenge. Participants can sign up that day to take part in a series of four family-friendly events, with the top teams competing in a fifth and final event for the prizes. "We have a new scoring system this year," Stromberg said, which will add to the fun. The Brigade will also enjoy a tour of the fort sites during their visit, and guided tours for the public are also planned.

Another big event at the Forts this year is the Riverland Recreational Challenge on May 31, which starts and ends at the historic site.

"We're putting a lot of history into it," Stromberg said. "We're working with the Edmonton House Brigade to set the stage, and they'll be doing black powder demonstrations after. When the challenge participants come off the river at Lindbergh, there will be a bagpiper to welcome them. It's a great place to interpret history, right where it happened, with the Carlton Trail, the Iron Horse Trail and the river all right there."

Stromberg said that a catered meal, prizes and activities will await the participants when they reach the Forts at the end of their circle route.

"They're coming for the adventure, and we hope they'll be wowed by the history."

Events for later in the summer include the Saskatoon Festival on July 19 and the Forts des Prairies Jamboree on August 31.

ED committee mandate

(Continued from Front Page)

Funding for the position will come from the Municipal Sustainability Initiative grant.

Lane changes

The owners of two local properties visited council to discuss purchasing lanes adjacent to their lots. Council discussed the price each would be willing to pay for the lane area, and indicated they would inform the landowners when a decision was made.

Canada Day funding

Council approved a \$1,000 grant toward Elk Point's Canada Day celebrations.

Fees increase

Council reviewed the fees charged for various municipal charges, and agreed that only two needed to be increased. A development permit will now cost \$150, while a

compliance certificate will cost \$100.

Water 24/7

Goyan reported that he has made inquiries, as per Mayor Tung's request, into the cost of installing a 24/7 water supply line between the North Saskatchewan River and Elk Point's water treatment plant. The province owns a pumping station and pipeline that delivers St. Paul's water supply to Lac St. Cyr, and there is a possibility that Elk Point could connect with this via a permanent pipeline rather than building their own pumping station at an estimated cost of \$3.4 million.

Mayor Tung says the town is "aggressively pursuing" a permanent, full-time water source for the community to replace the current seasonal pumping process.

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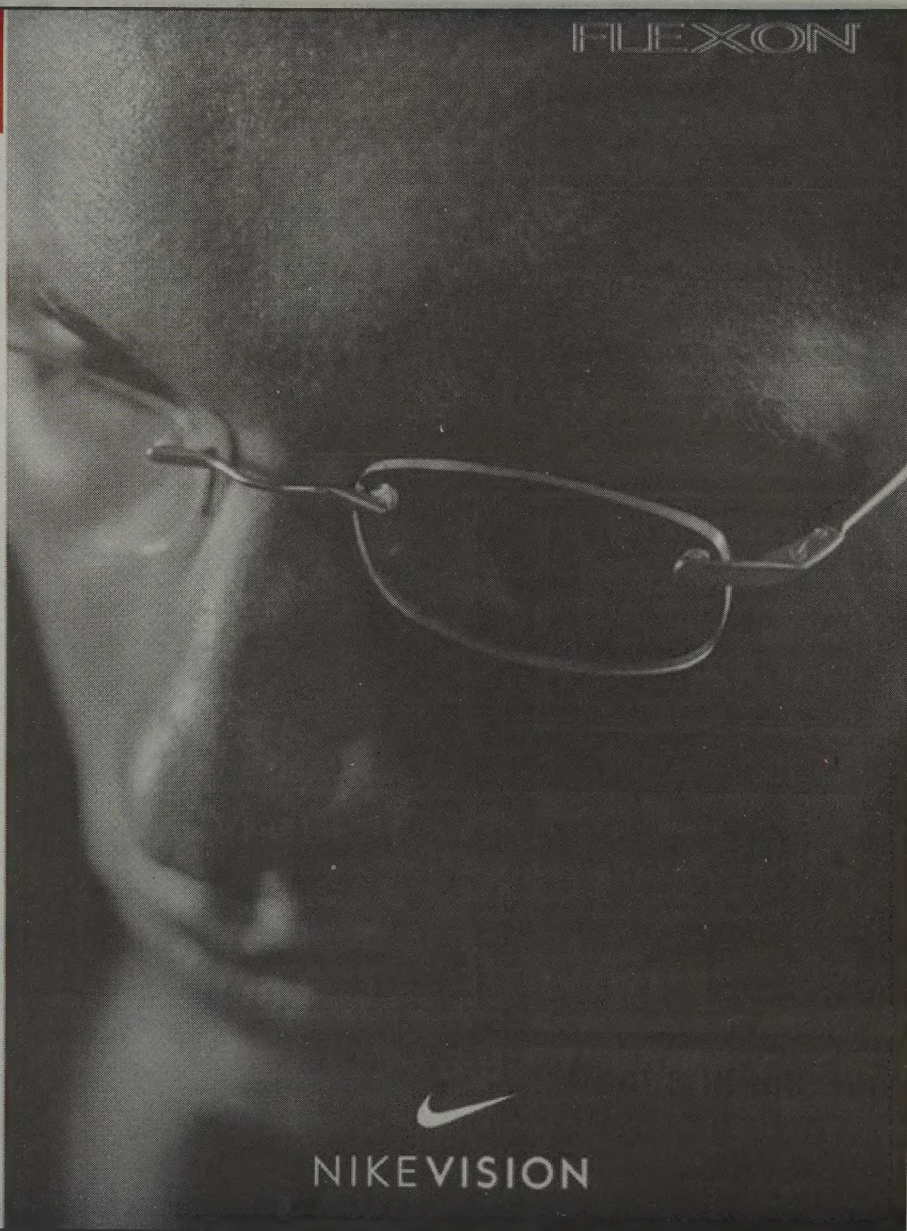
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Vicki Brooker photo

Ukrainian dancing at its finest

Elk Point Metelytsia Dance Club's senior group delighted the crowd when they performed this Bukovinian dance at their Malanka mini concert in January. With three more months of training and practice since then, they and their fellow dancers are sure to provide an afternoon of great entertainment at this Sunday's Spring Concert as they wind up another year of dancing.

Metelytsia to present 29th annual spring concert

BY VICKI BROOKER
Review Staff

Elk Point's Metelytsia Ukrainian Dance Club will wind up another successful year of dancing with their 29th annual Spring Concert on Sunday at the Elk Point Elementary School.

The 2 p.m. concert will showcase the progress of the club's 27 dancers, from the tiny beginners to the accomplished senior dancers, who have honed their skills again this year under the direction of Cheryl Robertson. This is Robertson's final year with the club, and all five groups will be putting their best feet forward to send her off with happy memories of her time with Metelytsia.

The club has demonstrated their ability the past two weekends at dance festivals in St. Paul and Vermilion.

Group Two won a silver medal in Vermilion last weekend, while Group Three won two silvers at each of the shows. Group Four won two golds in St. Paul and a silver and a gold in Vermilion, while the Group Five senior dancers won a silver and a gold in St. Paul and two gold in Vermilion. Metelytsia's boys' duet won silver at both competitions, while their female soloist won sil-

ver in St. Paul and gold in Vermilion.

The Group One beginners are saving up their talents to wow the hometown crowd on Sunday.

This is a great opportunity for home-town crowds to enjoy some fast-paced and exiting entertainment from these talented young ladies and gentlemen, who also showed off their skills in January at the club's Malanka mini concert.

ELK POINT METELYTSIA
UKRAINIAN DANCE CLUB
29TH ANNUAL
SPRING CONCERT
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Elk Point Elementary School Gym

Admission: Adults: \$5.00,
Seniors & Students: \$2.00, 6 and under free
EVERYONE WELCOME! BITAEMO!!

Mooswa Cemetery requires input from families

BY TRACY KJENNER
Contributor

Do you have a loved one buried at Mooswa Cemetery? The current cemetery committee requires your input on some major decisions. To that end, the annual meeting will be held at Riverview Curling Rink on Monday, April 28 at 7:00 p.m.

Following are some of the issues currently needing consideration at Mooswa Cemetery:

Annual meeting bylaw development and election of officers

Overall cemetery plan for the future needs to be determined (possible survey, plot sales, format change, possible fee charge for plots, headstone restrictions, etc.)

Fencing needs to be considered. Please come prepared with style suggestions as well as the associated costs. A decision must be made quickly so that work may commence.

Changes have been made to the graveyard cleaning schedule. To ensure the cemetery is tended to on a regular basis, please attend

the meeting and sign up for one or more of the cleaning groups.

Cracking and caving gravestones need to be worked on or changed (attempts to locate family members of those in question are required in order to make changes).

It is crucial that as many family representatives as possible are in attendance that evening. We want your input, but if there isn't family representation then decisions will still have to be made and a smaller core

group will be forced to make them.

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- represent the voice of the community by facilitating solutions that reflect community interest

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LICA is seeking community members for its **Board of Directors** and the following **working committees** as a result of maturing terms:

- **Governance** (policy and bylaw development)
- **Communication** (promote the organization)
- **Airshed Zone** (facilitate regional air monitoring in the region)
- **Resolution** (resolve issues related to development)

Remuneration and Expenses

Elected and appointed community members are paid stipends (\$100 per meeting) and are reimbursed for mileage (43 cents/km). Other expenses approved by the Board.



For more information about LICA and how you can participate contact Paula 639-5194 or Russ 645-6960. Membership forms can be obtained on line @ www.lica.ca or by calling the LICA office 1-877-737-2182

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EDITORIAL

Take a message!

It's Administrative Professionals' Week, and it's hard to imagine a group of people more deserving of recognition, yet a group who all too often don't get our thanks all year long.

These are people we'd be lost without. They are the soldiers on the front lines of our businesses, the ones who soothe irritated customers, remain polite and seemingly unruffled in the midst of chaos, and ignore their bosses' irritating habits.

They take our messages, remind us of appointments, can track us down in case of emergencies, and can even find missing papers on our desks when we call them in a panic.

They can translate the worst chicken-scratch writing, they can remember endless amounts of faces and phone numbers, and they offer to run our errands along with their own.

What would we do without them?

We don't want to find out, do we? Make sure to take your favourite Administrative Professional to lunch this week, just as a little way of saying thanks for a big job well done.

WAY BACK WHEN...

Big trade fairs, shrinking council, flooded library

HERE'S THE NEWS THAT MADE THE HEADLINES OF THE ELK POINT REVIEW AND ELK POINT LAKE LAND REVIEW FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 22 IN...

1988

Over 4,000 people attended three fun-filled days of exhibits, entertainment and excitement at Elk Point Agricultural Society's first annual trade fair. Over 40 ratepayers attended the Town of Elk Point's annual meeting, where the recreation land ball diamonds and increases in natural gas revenue were major topics of discussion.

1993

Elk Point's trade fair, which included a 24-foot Tyrannosaurus Rex, was a roaring success, with close to 60 exhibitors and good attendance. Elk Point volunteers contributed 152,915 hours, equivalent to a minimum of \$764,600 in labour, in the past year, and were celebrated with a well-earned week in which, according to Mayor Ed Buck, "volunteers volunteer to honour volunteers."

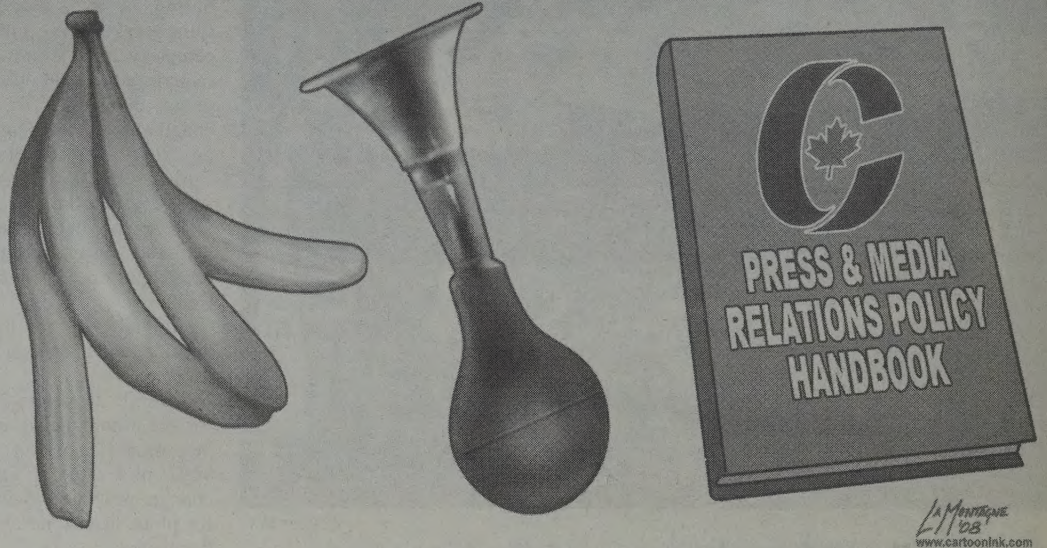
1998

Town Council gave first reading to a bylaw allowing them to reduce the size of council from seven members to five, and set the date for a public hearing at which residents could give their input on the change. The first trade fair in five years brought huge crowds to A. G. Ross Arena to view over 60 exhibits ranging from huge tractors to custom-made golf clubs, with an intriguing display of llamas and products made from their fiber one of the biggest hits.

2003

Waterlogged books and dripping computers were rescued from the Elk Point Library by board members, staff and volunteers, including a crew from Northern Lights Library System headquarters, and the town's public works department and other volunteers manned shovels, pails and a flotilla of shop vacuums after a toilet tank broke, flooding the building. Town council applied for lotteries funding for the first phase of recreation redevelopment, replacement of the playground at Markstad Park.

CLASSIC COMEDY PROPS



GUEST COLUMN

A bit of kindness

There is a story told above a young man who had never owned a horse in his life until he married a wonderful woman who loves horses.

Wanting to impress his new bride, he announced one evening that he was going to the pasture to teach a colt how to be led. He weighed more than the colt. He knew more than the colt. He assumed all he would need to do was pull on the lead rope and sooner or later the colt would follow. He was confident that the process would be short and simple.

He attached the lead rope to the halter, got in front of the colt, and pulled. The colt resisted. The young man pulled harder, and the colt planted his legs more firmly. So he really pulled, and the colt fell over.

The process was repeated several times until the young man made this assessment: in just four or five minutes he had successfully taught the colt to fall over. All he had to do was get in front of the colt, pick up the rope, and over it would go.

His wife, watching this process, finally suggested that instead of getting in front of the colt and pulling, he might try wrapping the rope around the colt and simply walking alongside. To the young man's chagrin, it worked.

There seems to be something inside each of us that resists being told or pushed or pulled. But if someone puts an arm around a person and walks alongside them, that person is likely to follow along. So really there is power in kindness.

When we don't show kindness to one another it is like what happens when apples in a barrel rot. It is not enough

to throw away half of the spoiled apples from the barrel and replace them with fresh apples on top. This would result in all the apples rotting. Instead it would be necessary to empty the barrel and completely clean and scrub – perhaps disinfect – the entire inside. Then the barrel could be safely filled again with apples. Likewise to clean up any problem were kindness was not shown, it will be required to go to the bottom of what caused the unkindness. This could be a very hard emotional task.

The reality of a situation like this is that it has to be corrected from the bottom or the results will remain the same. In other words, actions of unkindness will not change to kindness if we don't do something about the root of the problem.

To look at the root of any problem requires the first reaction of noting something is wrong. In other words, we have to accept the idea we could be doing something wrong ourselves. Like they say, there is two sides to every story. So part of what is going wrong has to be part of our own fault.

All of this can be carried over into when adults try to force other adults or children into doing something they insist they should be doing, the results may not be the desired results. Let's look at what happened.

Remember the colt story – force did not bring the desired result. Likewise, remember the spoiled apple story – cleaning, and changing from the bottom had to take place before the desired result could happen. In other words, when we recognize we have done something wrong, we need to make some changes within ourselves. We could become more kind with others.

In conclusion, when kindness is shown, there is a domino effect, results become the desired effect. And, when unkindness is shown, everything becomes rotten – no matter where it is shown. This doesn't change until we do something above out part in what went wrong. Yes, when we show a bit of kindness, life becomes easier and much more pleasant when we relate to others – adults or children.



deanna
EASTHOPE
from the FCSS desk

The Elk Point Review publishes a variety of opinions as a contribution to debate on matters of public concern. Unsigned editorials express the view of this newspaper's editorial board which includes the Publisher and the Editor. Signed pieces express the view of the individual writer.

ELK POINT REVIEW

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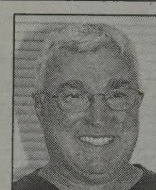
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Subdivision proposed near Elk Point

By JANICE HUSER

Staff Writer

Residents who might be thinking about building a home outside of Elk Point may soon have new lots to choose from if all goes as planned for one area developer.

Christoph Ludlage spoke to County council at last Tuesday's regular council meeting, expressing his plans to develop a 14-lot subdivision overlooking the river, south of Elk Point.

The lots will be located off the old Hwy 41, east of Shamrock shop, explained Ludlage. Each lot will be approximately 2 acres.

"It's a really good location," said Councillor Glen Ockerman of the proposed subdivision.

Ludlage also explained that he was working with the Town of Elk Point to bring in town water, which "would be a good selling feature."

County council later passed the first reading of Bylaw 1508 which will rezone the land discussed from Agricultural to Country Residential.

Library fees

County councillors met with Irene VanBrabant, Chairperson of the Library Board, last Tuesday, to discuss library membership fees. The meeting was requested in response to Council passing a motion to support the Elk Point library with the elimination of fees in February.

VanBrabant was looking for clarification on the topic, and also spoke about her view on the St. Paul library's membership fees.

"St. Paul is the only (library) left that charges a fee," said VanBrabant in regards to other libraries throughout the county. "The St. Paul library doesn't want to get known as the big greedy giant."

She further explained that the St. Paul library couldn't afford to not charge a membership fee, unless it began receiving additional funding.

Reeve Robert Bouchard acknowledged council's mistake in passing the motion to support the Elk Point library financially without going through the County Library Board.

"I believe that was an error on our part," he said, later adding, "I really strongly suggest that it should be reviewed by the County Library Board."

Division 2 Councillor Tom Kurek explained that he believed the Elk Point library has only eliminated fees based on a one-year trial.

Councillor Maxine Fodness pointed out the main issue was that the St. Paul library has County residents paying a fee, whereas no other county libraries charge residents a fee.

After discussing the topic, County council passed a motion to support the Elk Point Public Library's shortfall for this year only. The library will receive \$1,000 in additional funding.

St. Paul Golf Club

Members of the St. Paul Golf Club approached County council requesting support to build a new clubhouse.

Club members described the current clubhouse as being in a state of disrepair. They added that the building was built in the 1980s on a wood foundation. The current project is projected to cost \$900,000.

Club members asked County if any MSI grant funding could be made available to the project.

Bouchard explained that a lot of that money had already been allocated to community enhancement projects, such as roads and community halls.

"There's a lot of people standing in line for that money," he said, adding he would like the club to present council with a break down of the projected costs for the project before council makes any decisions.

Waste transfer agreement

Council approved a joint use agreement between the County and Town of St. Paul in regards to a waste transfer station that will be built by the Town and County.

"It's a pretty simple agreement really," said Reeve

Robert Bouchard.

According to the agreement, the County will be required to pay 25 per cent of capital and operational costs, with the Town paying the remaining 75 per cent.

Any revenue would also be split on a 75:25 basis, with 75 per cent going to the Town and 25 per cent going to the County.

Evergreen deficit

The County of St. Paul will be paying its share of costs to the Evergreen Regional Waste Management Services, which is \$23,601.

In 2007, Evergreen had a deficit of \$90,775, which will be split between its members, based on tonnage. The County is required to pay 26 per cent of the deficit based on the 2,252 tonnes of waste brought to the facility.

"This is fair for everybody," said Councillor Glen Ockerman of the system.

The Town of St. Paul will be paying off nearly half the deficit. The town brought 4,038 tonnes of waste to the facility in 2007.

Other partners helping pay off the deficit include the Town of Smoky Lake, the Town of Elk Point, and Smoky Lake County.

Lac Sante Area Structure Plan

County council received and accepted a revised Terms of Reference and Work Programme for two new Area Structure Plans for the Lac Sante area.

The County of St. Paul and the County of Two Hills will be working together to complete the plan since Lac Sante falls within both jurisdictions.

Council was then asked to appoint two members to a committee to deal with the plan, but councillors decided to meet with Two Hills council as a whole for the time being.

"I'd sort of like to see all council involved," said Councillor Glen Ockerman.

At last month's regular meeting, County council had passed a motion not to proceed with the Area Structure Plan until meeting with the County of Two Hills.

Champagne Road

A road located at Township Road 592 off Highway 881 may soon be named after a local family who settled in the area 100 years ago.

Louise Plante wrote a letter to County council to rename the road Champagne Road after receiving a letter from Germaine Champagne, one of her neighbours who has farmed in the area and expressed her desire to rename the road.

"I don't see a problem with it," said Councillor Frank Sloan last Tuesday.

Plante also told Council that the county could pass the cost of the sign down to those applying.

Request for land

Council denied a resident's request to purchase a piece of land in Crestview Beach, based on the parcel's history, and uncertainty by council about how the sale of the land should be done.

In 2001, the land had been donated to the County of St. Paul by a couple who was residing in Ontario. The couple had tried to donate the parcel to a non-profit organization but had been unsuccessful.

"We should sell it," said Bouchard, who also recommended the land be sold and the money be used to start a scholarship under the previous owner's names.

Council also agreed to notify the resident who had requested the purchase of the land when it does come up for sale.

Vehicle damages

Council denied two requests for the County to cover the cost of damages done to vehicles.

The first request asked to be compensated for a cracked windshield that supposedly occurred while the driver was behind a County gravel truck.

The second request asked to be compensated for damage done to the driver's vehicle when he hit a pothole, while driving on a county road.

(Continued on Page 7)



NOTICE TO COUNTY RESIDENTS

ST. EDOUARD TRANSFER STATION SUMMER HOURS

Effective Tuesday, April 22, 2008
St. Edouard Transfer Station
will now be open **Tuesdays and Saturdays**
from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

If further information is required,
please contact:

Dennis Bergheim, Phone 645-3301 - Ext. 207

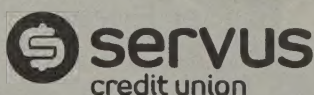
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Lac La Biche, St. Paul (and Two Hills)
PC Constituency Association

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, May 1, 2008

7:30 p.m. at the

Vilna Senior Citizens Centre

GUEST SPEAKERS:

Honorable Ray Danyluk & Staff

Please call Ron at 780-367-2243 for details

EVERYONE WELCOME!

Vandals hit Heinsburg's historic treasures

By VICKI BROOKER
Review Staff

Heinsburg's history buffs are disheartened by a string of vandalism incidents that damaged artifacts in the community's railway theme park.

Heinsburg Community Club president Marjorie Scott said that about two weeks ago, residents noticed that the back door of the historic train station was open, and on further investigation, a window was found to be totally missing. Around that same time, neighbours who discovered and cleaned up a number of broken bottles in the park's camp kitchen noticed that an outdoor picnic table had been damaged with a saw, as had the immense spruce tree nearby.

A handsaw was later found in a nearby clump of bush.

Just days after that incident, windows in the railway caboose and speeder were shattered.

Scott said the caboose windows appeared to have been broken from both the inside and outside, since glass was found both inside and outside the unit.



Shattered windows at Heinsburg's treasured train station and in the nearby caboose and speeder are the result of a vandalism spree.

"Then last Monday, they went after the station," Scott said. A number of window-panes on the front of the building have gaping holes, and a fist-sized rock lies surrounded by glass shards in the middle of the waiting room area. Windows were also broken on the east and north sides of the station as well, but Scott is not sure if these were broken at the same time or during the previous weeks.

The damage is a blow to community club members, who are very proud of their theme park, and recently applied for a \$75,000 grant to restore the foundation of the station, as the first step to turning it into a usable facility that would also highlight the community's history as the southeastern terminus of the rail line from Edmonton.

"Doesn't that just burn you?" asked local resident

Vernon "Babe" Sharkey. "We've never seen anything like this here before, but we're going to have to keep watch and go down (to the park) as soon as we see anybody down there. Did you see the table? That's just senseless."

Elk Point RCMP has indicated that they will offer a \$2,000 Crime Stoppers award in order to find the culprits.

Subdivision proposed

(Continued from Page 6)

"You get rock chips everyday," said Councillor Cliff Martin of the first request.

Council also agreed that potholes are a problem drivers will have to face on a daily basis, no matter where they are.

Glen Ockerman made both motions to deny the requests.

Elk Point golf tournament

The County of St. Paul will once again be participating in the Emergency Services Golf Tournament and Fundraising Event, held annually in Elk Point. County will be a gold sponsor for the event, donating \$500, along with sending a team of five golfers to the fundraiser on June 4.

A number of other groups will be receiving various donations or written support from the County following last Tuesday's council meeting. Groups include: the Elk Point Canada Day Committee, the UFO SAM St. Paul Club, Stoney Lake Stampede Association, Mallaig Legion and students at Regional High School.

County Office

After spring melting caused a leak in the back of the County office, the County is looking at hiring a company to inspect the office, to ensure there are no health issues, such as mould.

"We have been noticing a very strong, mildewing, moulding smell," said CAO Kim Heyman, adding, mould is a health issue and it had to be addressed.

Outstanding accounts

People will be facing timelines to clear up outstanding accounts with the County before being turned over to a collection agency.

Councillors approved a motion by Martin that stated

when accounts could be turned over to Case Receivables, a collection agency under contract with the County of St. Paul.

People will now have 90 days to clear up outstanding accounts before service will be terminated, and 180 before their account will be turned over to the collection agency.

Shop repairs

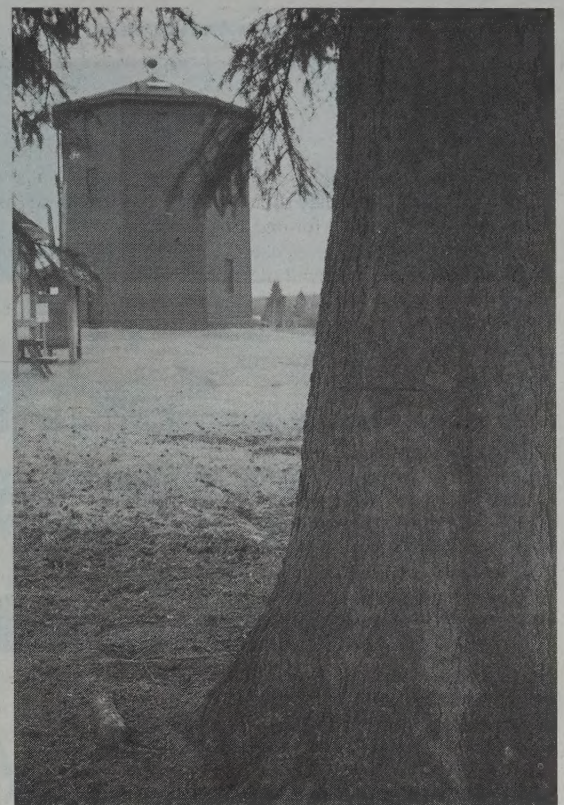
Council approved a motion to spend \$10,000 on the purchase of a new welding shop crane, and also \$6,000 to repair four other cranes.

FCSS board member

Irene Pilisko has been appointed as the new Division 2 County FCSS board member.

Seniors Centre

The Riverview Seniors Club has been granted \$1,000 from the County to help pay maintenance costs at the Heinsburg Community Club's Building.



A deep saw cut mars the trunk of the giant pine tree that has stood sentinel near Heinsburg's railway water tower since the community's earliest days as a railway terminus.

Elk Point Oilmen's Association Annual Meeting

Tuesday, May 6 at 7:00 pm

ELK POINT TOWN & COUNTRY
GOLF CLUB HOUSE

SUPPER 6:00 PM

ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE TO FOLLOW

EDMONTON **LOG & COTTAGE SHOW '08**

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Elk Point Baptist Church
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Presents
Calvin Smith of CMI-Canada
Saturday April 26
10:00am One Day 08 Session 1
4:00pm 'What About Dinosaurs'
7:00pm One Day 08 Session 2
Sunday April 27
10:00am 'What in the World is Going On?'
11:45am 'Evangelism in a Postmodern World'
For more information please call: 780 724-4194

Elk Point Palliative Care Society
INVITES YOU TO THEIR
CANDLE CEREMONY
WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 2008
2:00 to 4:00 pm
in the Elk Point Health Care Inservice Room
Come and celebrate Palliative Care Week and join us for refreshments & door prizes.
EVERYONE WELCOME!

Administrative

A tribute to the true

APRIL 21 TO 25, 2008

Dr. Steven Ma, would like to acknowledge the outstanding work ethics and colourful personalities of Diane, Agnes, Kathy and Leanne of the



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724-4018 / Elk Point, AB



Everyone here wishes Mrs. Marie Zayac, the best

ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONALS WEEK!



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THANKS!



LORI,

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THANK YOU!



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Deanna ...

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Roberta ...

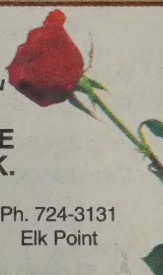
Thank you for your continuous efforts. Knowing we can count on you means a lot.

HAPPY ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONALS WEEK.



Ph. 724-3131
Elk Point

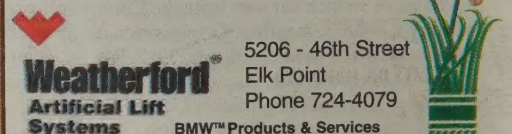
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I appreciate everything you do!

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Lynne, Terri & Jaime

No matter how hectic things get at work, it's reassuring to know you are always on top of things.

Thank you!



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Grace & Joanne ...

Your hard work deserves more than a simple thank you; you are both exceptional assistants.

THANK YOU!



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Cecile, Brandi, Shaina & Jessica ...

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Jodi & Diane

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Heather ...

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I couldn't be without you.

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All the best for a wonderful ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONALS WEEK to Brenda!

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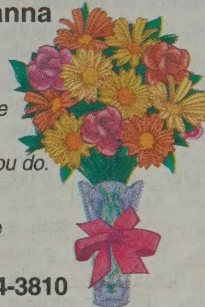
In honour of Administrative Professionals Week, we would like the entire town to know just how much we appreciate everything you do.

THANK YOU!

The Mayor, Council and staff of the



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Donna, Cathy, Lorraine, Linda, Cyndy & Brittney ...

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Thanks for your great work.

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Debbie, Megan & Rhonda ...

thank you for being a vital part of our team. You are all a treasure to work with.

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Donna, Wendy & Denise

from each and every one of us ... thank you and

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All the staff at

Elk Point Elementary School



County AGM gets revived ratepayer interest

By JANANI WHITFIELD
Staff Writer

After a one-year absence, the County of St. Paul annual general meeting made its return, to renewed interest from county residents.

County of St. Paul CAO Kim Heyman explained at the April 15 event that there has traditionally been a "lack of interest" in the AGM, with only five or six people showing up. The county decided to eliminate the event last year, and held an open house instead, resuming the AGM again this year. "That was how we got people interested," she said.

About 20 people showed up to hear the financial statements for the County of St. Paul, as well as to air their concerns about county issues.

Those residents heard that county took in a total of about \$18.7 million in revenues for the year ending in Dec. 31, 2007. Of those revenues, about \$3.3 million came from provincial government transfers, \$4.4 million came from sales and user charges, and \$10.6 million came from net property taxes. While residential and farmland taxation accounted for just under \$4 million of all taxation, linear taxation, which consists of taxation on industry and such things as oil, gas and cable pipelines, accounted for \$7.2 million.

"The majority of our taxes comes from linear," Heyman said, following the meeting.

The expenditures for the year were about \$17.8 million, falling just under the

budgeted amount of about \$18 million. By far the biggest expenditures lay in transportation, with a total of more than \$10.9 million spent in this area.

The County of St. Paul's

homework done."

Reeve Robert Bouchard explained that, "it costs lots of money to mail (the statement) out" and pointed out that many people just discarded it. Other options

"Our assets have increased. At the end of the year, we came out with a surplus. We're in good shape financially."

- County of St. Paul CAO Kim Heyman

total balance by the end of the year was \$1.4 million, which consists of both deferred revenue from grant monies that will be spent next year, and surplus funds.

"Our assets have increased. At the end of the year, we came out with a surplus. We're in good shape financially," said Heyman. The complete financial statement can be picked up at the County of St. Paul office.

However, residents questioned why they only received the financial statement on the day of the meeting. One resident said she would like to see the financial statement two or three weeks before the AGM, so she could understand what would be discussed. "It seems to me like going to school without having your

were discussed, such as posting the statement online, leaving it at the post office, or even advertising its availability so that people could request a mail-out. The suggestions were left at the County of St. Paul council's door.

Reeve Robert Bouchard then gave his report for the year, highlighting 10 new miles of road built, the near completion of the St. Paul Fire Department's new hall, to which the county contributed 50 per cent, and three new transfer stations built in St. Lina, St. Edouard and St. Vincent.

The past year also saw the issue of voter eligibility raise its head, he said. The county has appealed to the Court of Queen's Bench to clarify whether people who own dual properties, and who may live in the county

only seasonally, are eligible to vote.

"This is an issue that will impact every person in the province," said Bouchard. He said the real decision for the court is whether democracy was based on residency or on wealth.

"I believe and most of the members of council believe that the ratepayer with a single property should have the same rights as the ratepayer with two or more properties in different municipalities," he said. "If the court rules against the county, I believe democracy will take a step backwards."

Following Bouchard's report, the floor was opened up to questions. One resident complained that at a time when his wife was ill and in need of medical services, it took five days for the roads to be cleared so that he could leave his house. Heyman explained that grader operators sometimes work around the clock to clear the roads, but during bad snowstorms, the wind blows the snow back out on the roads faster than it can be cleared out. "You can never have enough graders," she added.

Roads were a major concern for residents, who pressed questions about the quality of roads and potholes.

"I think it's a bigger

problem," pointed out one resident. Since the railroad system went by the wayside, there has been more transportation on the roads, and the infrastructure has not kept up with the change, he said. "Can we hit up the provincial government for help?"

Bouchard responded that new funding from the government through the Municipal Sustainability Initiative would be a great help in improving roads.

"We're trying to catch up," he said. "That's a real challenge."

The oil industry is also helping, and is picking up a bigger share of the costs to repair the roads damaged by heavy oil transportation, he added.

Another person mentioned road bans, and asked how these were enforced.

Bouchard noted that ban restrictions on roads were for people to carry 75 per cent of a full load. He asked how the county could tell a farmer transporting canola, for example, that he could only carry 75 per cent of a load. "You can't," he said, acknowledging the difficulties in enforcing a ban.

The resident agreed, but noted not enforcing the ban would have a cost. "You're going to pay for it."

Other questions focused on Evergreen Regional Waste Management's plan to open the Lafond landfill to other municipalities' household trash and concerns about litter and garbage being dumped alongside roads.

New rural signage throughout County

By JANICE HUSER
Staff Writer

It will soon be much easier for people traveling within the County Of St. Paul to find ratepayers' homes thanks to rural signs being erected.

"We're allocating specific addresses to our rural residents," said County Of St. Paul CAO Kim Heyman. "It's a huge amount of work."

County council passed a motion last Tuesday to accept a tender from Alberta Traffic Supply to supply the signs at a cost of approximately \$149,000.

"It's something we've been considering for a long time," says Heyman about the undertaking. The signs are meant to facilitate finding residents' homes throughout the county, for both emergency purposes and otherwise.

(Continued on Page 11)

28th Annual Farm & Oilfield Equipment, Car, Truck, RV, ATV, Furniture & Tool Consignment Auction

April 26th & 27th at 10:00 a.m.

**at Rivard's Auctioneering Site
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This is a partial listing only with many more items to come.

Farm Equipment: 1155 MF tractor w/duals & 540 & 1000 pro, 12' Eze-On grass disc, 12' MF square baler, 2090 Case tractor w/FEL, 3130 JD tractor, 1570 Case tractor w/FEL, 3650 Case baler, 18' Kello Tandem Disc, 3970 JD Forage Harvester, Richardson HyDump Wagon, 3 wheel 3 pth hay rake, Volvo 800 tractor w/duals & dual hydraulics & 10' Leon dozer blade, Tandem wheel self loading round bale wagon, Cockshutt 311 side delivery rake, Versatile 27' grain auger, diamond harrows, 41' Westfield grain auger, bale feeders, cattle panels, Heavy Hitter post pounder, 20' industrial spray boom, Vemeer rock picker, 7' Brush hog offset disc, 9' JD tandem disc, 2 horse trailer (like new), 14' land roller w/hydraulic transport, 1981 P3500 gal. pneumatic wheel packer, 1992 Carard rototiller.

Vehicles: 1992 Chev. ext. cab (loaded), 2000 Dodge Caravan, 1996 Grand Am, 1991 Jeep Cherokee Laredo (1 owner), 1998 Pontiac Bonneville, 1990 Thunderbird, 1998 Intrepid, 1993 Chevy Van, 1990 Dynasty, 1974 Ford 1 Ton, 1994 Concorde, 1991 Chevy Diesel, 1993 Grand Am, 1984 Chev. Suburban, 2003 Chev. 3500 4x4, 1999 Chev. 2500, 1998 GMC 3500, 1996 Ford F350, 1997 Chev. 2500, 1997 Ford clubwagon, 1997 Chev. 3500, 1997 Ford F350, 1994 Chev. Sportsvan, 1996 Chev. 2500, 1996 & 1997 Ford 1 Ton crewcab 4x4 longbox trucks, 1995 Ford F150, 1992 Chev. 1500, 1988 Buick, 2-1/2 Ton 6x6 w/8m water tank and winch.

Oilfield Equipment: 1998 JD Skidsteer loader, 300 amp Reddi Arc welder, 30' 5th wheel High Boy trailer, steel & alum. Tool boxes, chain boomers, new 2000 lb. winch box, logging chains, 2500 lb. winch, air filters, panels for welding fab tents, Jon poles for 1 Ton truck.

RVs & ATVs: 14' Holiday Trailer, 16-1/2' air boat & trailer w/Ford push prop motor, 14' Edson boat & trailer w/15 hp Suzuki outboard motor & fish finder, 1984 Kustom Koach (loaded), 2001 CR80 Honda motor cross bike, 1996 Sportsman 400 Polaris 4x4 quad w/winch, 1995 300 Polaris Trail Blazer, 10' Zodiac w/9.9 Evinrude motor, 50 cc Honda bike, 1978 - 17' Trihaul boat & trailer w/120 hp rebuilt motor, 1976 Cabin Cruiser & trailer w/120 hp inboard motor, 1989 26-1/2' Mallard 5th wheel c/w AC, fridge, F/A furnace, sleeps 6, 1981 - 27' Vanguard motorhome, 1985 Chev. camperized van, 1997 TRX 200 Honda quad, 2007 - 110 cc Giovanni kid's quad, 2007 ZR200 quad, 16' car hauler.

Tools & Miscellaneous: Leaf blower, wood stove, N/G insert, horse harnesses, Honda 2 spd. self propelled lawn mower, Antique pinball machine (works), riding lawn mowers, utility trailers, weed whackers, 1 hp Honda concrete vibrator, Industrial sewing machine, 2 horse trailer (like new), portable loading chute, fence posts, propane hose, 15' swather canvases, barbed wire, tractor tire chains, socket sets, chisels, batteries, many tools, new compact booster pack, honeywell heaters, 90 gal. Fuel tanks, Alum. & steel rims, 1000 gal. Plastic water tank, 4 cyl. Ford Industrial engine w/hydraulic pump, 7 yd. & 10 yd. gravel boxes, Jaeger compressor, WBM 7 yd. sander, laser level.

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What you need to know about

the Art of Peace

An Arts Challenge for the Prevention of Family Violence and Bullying

The Art of Peace Challenge invites youth, aged 14-20, to research and create artistic works that motivate Albertans to reach out and help those impacted by family violence or bullying.

Deadline for entries is August 1, 2008

Individuals and groups are encouraged to submit entries in the form of dance, film/video, literary/writing, music, theatre, visual or multidisciplinary art. Finalists could receive up to \$1,000 in awards, and selected entries will be showcased during Family Violence Prevention Month.

Complete details are available at familyviolence.gov.ab.ca. If you have any questions, please call 780-422-5916 (dial 310-0000 for toll-free access) or e-mail artofpeace@gov.ab.ca.

Alberta

Spring tune-up for your drinking water well

BY MARY JANE CONBOY

Hydrogeologist

Early spring is a great time to test your well water and inspect your well. Now that the snow has melted and you can see your yard better, you need to check your well.

Step 1: Test your well water for bacteria. Bacteria is the most common impurity found in well water and it is often most obvious during the spring when the ground is saturated and wet with snow melt and flood waters. The melting snow or running water transports a lot of material from the surface deep into the soil. This can cause material from the soil surface to move into your drinking water source.

Another good time to test your well water is the day after a heavy rainfall. Testing your water at times when contamination is likely will provide you with the most accurate assessment of how safe your drinking water is. The Ministry of Health suggests testing your well for bacteria three times a year through its complementary service. Contact your local health unit to get your free bacteria water testing bottle.

Step 2: Do a visual inspection of your well and the area around your well. You should check the condition of your well at least once a year. Use a strong flashlight and take a good look at every part of the lining, water surface, pipes and well head. Your well needs to be watertight to be

secure. The water comes in from the bottom not the top or sides. The water at the base of the well is cleaner. This is the water you want to have in your house and this is the water you need to protect through proper well maintenance.

When you inspect your well, you are looking for:

■ Any rodents or debris that may have fallen into the well over the year. If you have anything in your well – you may have a structural problem with your well that needs to be repaired by a licensed well contractor.

■ Cracks, leaks or evidence that the well is not watertight. You should have a water-tight seal on your well that extends at least 10 feet deep in a dug well and 20 feet in a drilled well. This helps ensure that surface water filters through layers of soil and rock before it can enter the well. Have a licensed well contractor repair any cracks or loose concrete.

■ Top of the well – All wells should extend at least 16 inches above ground or above the highest known water level in areas subject to flooding. Well tops are not generally watertight, so they should not be buried or located below ground in frost pits, because this permits direct entry of surface water or spills.

■ Install a vermin proof well cap. Well caps have been improved in the last 6 years. Caps that prevent insects from entering the well are available and should be installed on your well to keep insects from nesting in your well. Insects in the well are a common cause of coliform bacteria.

■ Abandoned wells – Unused, deteriorated wells allow pollutants to enter the groundwater, which can lead to contamination of active wells nearby. In addition, abandoned wells are a safety hazard, particularly for children and animals. Unused wells should be properly plugged. In many areas there are cost share programs to help with the expense of decommissioning old wells.

Preventing bacteria from entering your well water
Treating contaminated well water is one way of ensuring your water is safe to drink but it is addressing the symptom, not the problem. For a more long-term solution, the source of bacteria should be identified, and where possible, eliminated. This often means repairing your well.

Locating the source of contamination

This process can be quite simple or may involve detailed testing using tracers to map the flow of water on your property.

Consider these factors when determining the most likely source of bacteria entering your well water:

1. How many times has your well tested positive for bacteria. If you well has had many tests that exceeded drinking water standards for bacteria, it is likely that there is a constant source of bacteria entering the well. Bacteria does not live long or travel very far. The well itself is often the problem and should be repaired. If the well is in good shape, then look around the well starting at the well and moving out 50 feet in every direction. The closest source is often the most likely source of bacteria.

2. Assess the slope of your property or local area. Water tends to flow downhill and groundwater tables tend to follow the slope of the land. On some properties, the house may be built up on a local elevation, small hills immediately surrounding a house or barn may reflect disturbances from the construction of the house and may not reflect the slope of your groundwater table.

3. Where is your septic system or garden (pet waste, etc) in relation to your well? All contaminants should be located downhill from your well water. This is true even if tile drains are present to direct most of the water in a different direction.

Need Help? The Well Wise Resource Centre is a non-profit organization providing technical support to well owners. Visit www.wellwise.ca for more information. The Well Aware program is a community based educational program offering free home visits to help well owners. Check www.wellaware.ca for a local service provider. Many conservation authorities have cost share programs to help well owners see if there are any programs in your area.

Rural signage

(Continued from Page 10)

Provisions for future development also have to be considered to ensure signs remain in order, says Heyman.

The County has been exploring the possibility of erecting rural road signage for a number of years but there hasn't been room in the budget until now, she adds.

The goal is to have a sign for every residence throughout the county, which could be between 2,500 and 3,000 signs. The signs will be about 4 feet high, "so they don't get buried in the snow," says Heyman.

She adds that the County will be installing the signs themselves and will certainly begin putting them up this year.

Little Known Fact...

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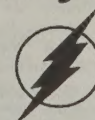
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COMMERCIAL -

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Local artist showcase @ the library

By NICOLE LABRIE
Elk Point Municipal Library

Starting April 28, the Elk Point Municipal Library will be holding an art show to showcase the talents of our local artists. The art show will run from April 28 to May 3, and will be open to the public during library hours with the exception of Wednesday evening and Saturday.

On Wednesday evening, the library will remain open until 9 p.m. instead of the regular time of 8 p.m. in order to hold an artists' reception.

The public is welcome to attend this reception and view the many works of art that will be displayed. The library will also be open from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, May 3 for public viewing.

Artists will be bringing in original works in various mediums: paintings, sculptures, drawings, photography, artistic poetry, etc. Some of the artists may offer their pieces for sale, and these will be clearly marked.

This art show is open to the public, and we welcome everyone to join us in celebrating our local artists!

Pearl Anderson celebrates 90th Birthday

Pearl Anderson's son Ross called Saturday's gathering at the Elk Point Seniors' Recreation Centre, "A splendid day for a splendid lady," as he and brothers George, Brian, Don and Barry and sisters Shirley Maksymuk, Donna Kozicki and Debbie Ballas, their children and grandchildren and a large contingent of family and friends wished Pearl a happy 90th birthday. Glen Ockerman, who presented Pearl with a plaque of congratulations from the County of St. Paul, shared memories of eating cookies in Pearl's kitchen as a child and told her she looked "like a million dollars."



BIRTHDAY

Happy 50th Birthday MOM



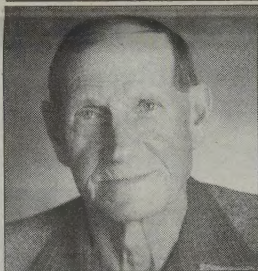
Love Jeanny, Jay, your grandchildren and Steven

Wrong Ruth

Our apologies for reading between the lines and giving the wrong last name for one of the faithful Elk Point Healthcare Centre Auxiliary. It is Ruth Stone, not Ruth Vogel who is a volunteer with this group. Sorry.

OBITUARY

HYATT, Harold "Roy"



Roy Hyatt was born April 8, 1924 in Wainwright, Alberta and passed away April 11, 2008 in Edmonton at the age of 84 years.

He leaves to cherish his memory his loving wife Margaret of Elk Point, Alberta, his children: Susan Jezzard of England, Peggy Riome of Elk Point and Graeme Hyatt of Mission BC. Grieving his passing are his 5 grandsons and 2 granddaughters, 19 great grandchildren, one sister-in-law as well as 5 nieces and 1 nephew and many other family members as well as friends from over the years. He was predeceased by his 3 older brothers.

A Celebration of Roy's life was held on Thursday, April 17th at the Dewberry Community Hall at 2:00 PM with Pastor Brad Diprose officiating. He was laid to rest in the Dewberry Community Cemetery. Donations in memory of Roy may be made to the charity of your choice.

A Special thank you to Pastor Brad Diprose, your kind words both at the service and your consideration to our family when you were at the house will always be remembered. Thank you to Jean Bowman for playing the piano and to the ladies who made the lunch. Harry & Alva Creech and the staff of Crossroads Funeral Chapel your guidance helped to make a difficult time easier. To all those who sent flowers made donations in memory of Roy, brought food to the house or phoned your support and generosity will always be remembered and appreciated.

The Hyatt Family



Other messages of congratulations for Pearl came from Governor General Michele Jean, Prime Minister Steven Harper, Member of Parliament Brian Storseth, Premier Ed Stelmach and Minister of Municipal Affairs, the Hon. Ray Danyluk.

First Nations gather to discuss language

By JANICE HUSER
Staff Writer

People from across the province and beyond will gather later this week at Blue Quills College to discuss the importance of the Cree language and take part in a storyteller's festival.

"Language is the cornerstone of our identity," says Diana Steinhauer, an instructor and researcher at Blue Quills. "(It) is a common concern amongst indigenous people all over."

The Northeast Indigenous Language Conference and Storyteller's Festival will be taking place April 24 and 25 at the local college.

"This conference is focused on providing a venue where people can share strategies and practices," explains Steinhauer. Organizers want to bring language activities together, and discuss common language needs for research and implementation purposes.

Anyone who has an interest in the Cree language is invited to attend, and Steinhauer hopes elders, along with teachers and instructors from the area will take time to participate.

Dr. Barb Laderoute will be the keynote speaker at the conference, and she will be speaking to the theme of the conference, which is "Let's come back together through our language," and "Let's come home to our Cree Language."

Laderoute is a Cree-Metis researcher and educator. She also currently sits on an international expert committee on literacy. She has studied the Cree language at length.

As for the storyteller's festival, Jerry Saddleback, a well-known storyteller from the area, will take the lead.

The conference is held biannually by First Nations across the region. The seven First Nations groups in the area have committed to the conference, and Steinhauer hopes the next conference will be held in one of the other communities.

For more information on the event, contact conference coordinator Vivian Jenkins at 645-4455.

CHURCH SERVICES

Elk Point Baptist Church
5705 - 49 St., Elk Point
Pastor Jim MacLellan
Pastor Jason Goulet
Family Worship Service
Sundays - 10 a.m.
Sunday School - 11:15 a.m.
Call 724-4194 for more information
or see our Website:
geocities.com/elkptbapt

St. Vladmirs' Ukrainian Orthodox Church, Elk Point
For service times, call 645-5156, St. Paul or 724-4175, Elk Point.

United Church of Canada
4822 - 50 Ave., Elk Point
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Services - Sunday 10 a.m.
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St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church
Father Ambrose
Sunday Mass.
11:30 a.m.
Mass 1st Tuesday of the month at
Parkview Extended Care, 4 p.m.
Mass and Holy Hour
1st Friday of the month at 7 p.m.

Bethel Lutheran Church of Lea Park
Weekly Services, 10:30 a.m.
Holy Communion 2nd and 3rd
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IN MEMORIAM

WHITE, Liz
Passed away April 24, 2007



My lips cannot tell how I miss her
My heart cannot tell what to say,
God alone knows how I miss her
I miss you every single day.

Husband Jack, the White and Meger Families.



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130. Coming Events

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HUGE INVENTORY Garage Sale at United Homes Canada, 148 East Lake Blvd., Airdrie, May 2 from 12 - 6 p.m. and May 3 from 10 - 3 p.m. Free BBQ lunch!

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190. Announcements

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200. Business/Invest. Oppor.

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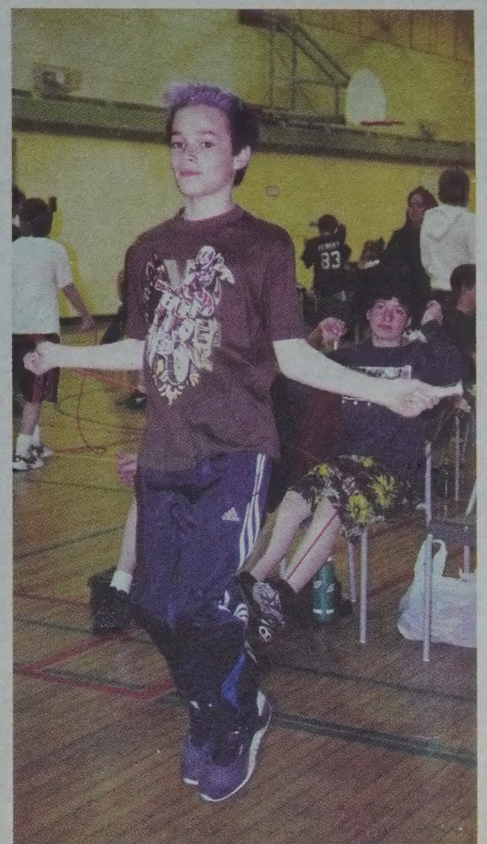
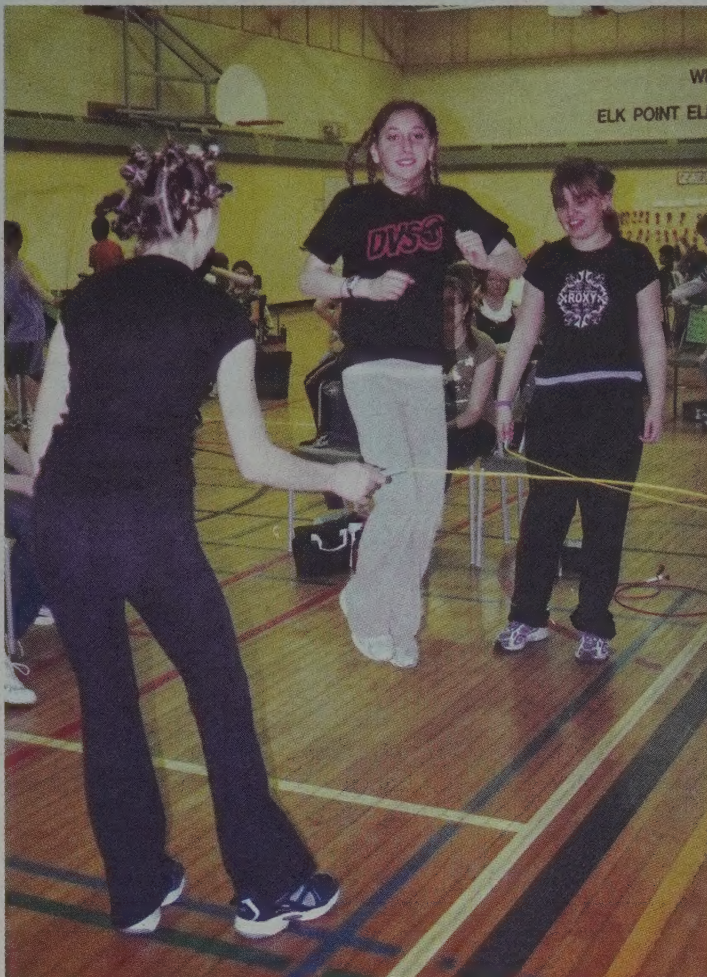
Wild Hair Day

Many of the skippers were also sporting fanciful hair styles and colours, such as this young lady's tri-color 'do, to make the day even brighter.



Photos by
Vicki Brooker

Jump Rope for Heart



Feet were flying Friday at Elk Point Elementary School as students participated in the annual Jump Rope for Heart fundraiser for the Heart and Stroke Association. At left, Hayley Ference (left) and Dayle Oster turn the rope for Megan Kinaschuk, while above, Han Lo Pittlejon sets a fast pace.

245. Misc. Services

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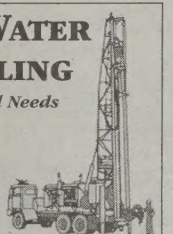
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ELK POINT REVIEW



Mike Pomerleau photo

Randy Merkel is seen here in action in games against Lloydminster and Grand Centre last season. Merkel will be heading to Edmonton in May as a member of Team North for the Senior Bowl.

Merkel makes Senior Bowl

By MIKE POMERLEAU

Sports

For the third straight year, a member of the St. Paul Lions football team will participate in the Senior Bowl.

On April 12 and 13, six players from last season's championship-winning St. Paul Lions team traveled to Foote Field in Edmonton for the North Alberta Senior Bowl tryouts. Of those six, Randy Merkel was the only one who made the team.

Merkel is the third Lions player to make the team in the past three years, following the steps of Majd Salame and Dave Cardinal.

"It's pretty amazing," said Merkel. "It was a great experience and also really hard, but I was ready for it."

It's a nice feather on the cap to what has been a pretty impressive high school career for Merkel. He was the third best rusher in the Wheatland Football League last season, averaging 5.6 yards a carry and amassing 413 yards all season. He was a big key to the Lions' championship run as he led the team in total yards with 400 yards, 373 of those on the ground and the other 27 in the air. He also made a big touchdown in the WFL championship against Grand Centre in the Lions' 23-22 win.

But Merkel won't be going to the Bowl as an offensive player. Instead, he'll play defensive back, a position that suits him nicely. He had no problem going through

the drills at the tryouts and according to one of his Lions' coaches, Todd Tanasichuk, he was a shoo-in to make the team. Tanasichuk will also be heading to the Senior Bowl as the defensive backs' coach.

"The championship was a huge step but now making the senior bowl and being named one of the best in Alberta is great," said Merkel.

This year's Senior Bowl takes place on May 19 at Foote Field in Edmonton. Merkel is hoping to do well against some of the other top players in Alberta and plans to train hard in preparation for the big game. But when it comes down to it, he just wants to enjoy the experience.

"It's a lot faster football and you're playing against the top players in the province and again, I'm one of them," said Merkel. "So it's great and I look forward to it."

Merkel already has plans for his future following high school.

"I've got Colts tryouts on May 9 to 10, so hopefully it'll be junior football after this," he said.

Of note: Tyson Proskiwi, Yannick Mahe, Bryant Schnurer, Adam Hymanyk and Luc Hebert were the other players who tried out for this year's North Alberta Senior Bowl team. Although these players did not make the team, several of them got tryout offers to play junior football after high school. Three of the players were invited to the Edmonton Huskies' tryouts in May.

Life and its lessons

I learned another valuable lesson this past weekend. Never put the snow shovel away before May. That would be the end of May, by the way! I had to plow my way through the deep snow in the back yard and into the garage to find it on Sunday morning. I guess our plan of having ball practice this coming week might be a little premature. But regardless we will be playing one of these fine days, but not unless you get yourself down to the AG Ross Arena on Wednesday night from 3p.m. to 7p.m. and register, this is the last call for ball. And while we're speaking of ball, you know it's a very cheap sport to play, a short season, only May and June, unless your team enters provincials, and best of all, there isn't any bingo's to work. But you could do us and your child a very big favor if you wish and volunteer to help coach. I know what you're going to say, and it's the same story every year, I don't have time. And I say "Make The Time." Here's a little story that was sent to me by a friend. I really enjoyed it and I'm hoping if I share it with you today you just might get the message. I'll going to call it "The sands of time."

When things in your life seem almost too much to handle, when 24 hours in a day are not enough, remember the mayonnaise jar and the two cups of coffee.

A professor stood before his philosophy class and had some items in front of him. When the class began, he wordlessly picked up a very large and empty mayonnaise jar and proceeded

to fill it with golf balls. He then asked the students if the jar was full. They agreed that it was.



doug
BASSETT
Review Sports

The professor then picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar. He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles rolled into the open areas between the golf balls. He then asked the students again if the jar was full. They agreed it was.

The professor next picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up everything else. He asked once more if the jar was full. The students responded with an unanimous "yes."

The professor then produced two cups of coffee from under the table and poured the entire contents into the jar effectively filling the empty space between the sand. The students laughed.

Now," said the professor as the laughter subsided, "I want you to recognize that this jar represents your life. The golf balls are the important things—your family, your children, your health, your friends and your favorite passions—and if everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full.

The pebbles are the other things

that matter like your job, your house and your car.

The sand is everything else—the small stuff. "If you put the sand into the jar first," he continued, "there is no room for the pebbles or the golf balls. The same goes for life. If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff you will never have room for the things that are important to you.

"Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness. Spend time with your children. Spend time with your parents. Visit with grandparents. Take time to get medical checkups. Take your spouse out to dinner. Play another 18. There will always be time to clean the house and fix the disposal. Take care of the golf balls first—the things that really matter. Set your priorities. The rest is just sand."

One of the students raised her hand and inquired what the coffee represented. The professor smiled and said, "I'm glad you asked."

The coffee just shows you that no matter how full your life may seem, there's always room for a couple of cups of coffee with a friend."

And now for the K.A. Campbell quote of the week. "If a woman has to choose between catching a fly ball and saving an infant's life, she will choose to save the infant's life, without even considering if there are men on the base." Last weeks answer to- "When we played baseball, I'd steal second base, feel guilty and go back." - Woody Allen Do you have any scoops? Now you can email them to sportshound007@hotmail.com O

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